

Trends and settings of fertility behaviour in former GDR and FRG

Abstract

The objective of the study is to analyse fertility trends in the former GDR and FRG after 1952 to the present and to examine the population attitudes towards parenthood. Fertility analysis is concentrated on investigating trends in marital and extramarital live births, total fertility rate, mean age at childbirth and fertility rates by age. Reproductive behaviour in GDR and FRG was different and after unification Germany (3 October 1990) has preserved its specifics. Another part of the study deals with the attitudes of the population of FRG to parenthood and their expectations regarding family policy. The results show that children aren't a major life value for Germans and the demands related to family policy measures are there excessive. The main findings of this study are summarized in the conclusion.